

Orts: The George MacDonald Society Newsletter

Volume 25

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Orts 25, 1992

The George MacDonald Society

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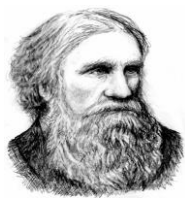


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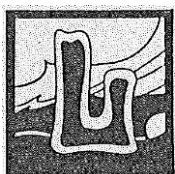
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Orts

The George MacDonald Society Newsletter No. 25, February 1992



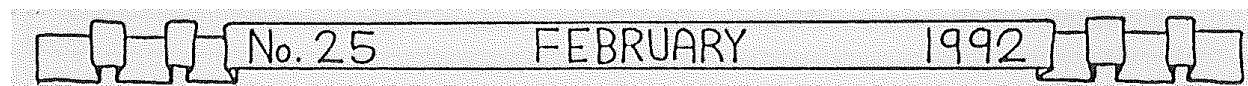
PAST YEAR'S A.G.M. was held on Friday November 22nd 1991 at 58a Westbourne Park Villas. Twelve members were present with one observer and apologies from seven members.

The Chairman began by welcoming everyone warmly and thanked the members of the Committee for their recent efforts. He also expressed the regret of the Society that Kathy Triggs was no longer able to continue with the editing of *Orts*.

After the minutes of the 1990 meeting had been approved and signed, the secretary described the progress there had been during the year towards charitable status. No serious difficulties now remain and the draft constitution, with very minor changes suggested by the Charity commissioners, will be submitted to members at the 1992 AGM or earlier GM.

The new Committee was then confirmed in office. Committee members are: Phil Streeter, Freda Levson, John Docherty, Rachel Johnson, Bill Raeper, Tony Richardson, Margaret Richardson and Raphael Shaberman.

Freda Levson made everyone who attended the meeting feel welcome in her home and gave news of various far-flung descendants of George MacDonald.



The Secretary felt that it was necessary to take action to increase Society membership in order to reduce per capita costs and provide more activities for members. He had communicated details of the Society to the publishers of the *Directory of British Associations* and had obtained an offer from the Victorian Studies Centre of Leicester University to publicise the Society and its activities in appropriate journals worldwide. A second potential field of expansion is local interest. Tony Richardson had been working to increase membership around Huntly; this could also be done elsewhere, for example in Hastings and Bordighera. As MacDonald is valued for his spiritual insights, the Secretary was exploring ways of including articles on MacDonald and the Society in the major religious journals.

The financial situation was tight due to a large and unexpectedly large bill arising from

the Huntly visit and a loan to the Huntly memorial fund. **Membership** stood at 110.

Tony Richardson described progress made on the **Drumblade Memorial Project** during the year. The memorial should be in place for a completion ceremony in September 1992. He also drew attention to the MacDonald Exhibition due to be opened very shortly at the Brander Library, Huntly (see newspaper cutting in this issue) and mentioned that there would be an exhibit on the linen bleaching trade based upon research carried out at Aberdeen University – which is the subject of a new book.

The meeting closed with a very special event: John Heath-Stubbs read and commented upon a selection of his poems which included a poem about MacDonald, written specially for the occasion.

ITALIAN GIANT'S HEART

Society Member, Giorgio Spina has translated MacDonald's short story *The Giant's Heart* into Italian. The book was published by Erga Edizioni in November 1991 under the title *Il Cuore Del Gigante* and includes an introduction by Professor Spina as well as illustrations by Ginani Soletta.

Who was George MacDonald? You will soon find out!

HUNTLY Heritage Project members yesterday began work on their first exhibition which they plan to open in Huntly's Brander Library reading room around Christmas time.

The group will stage the "Who was George MacDonald?" exhibition and already have a collection of MacDonald memorabilia, including original manuscripts of two novels as well as a quantity of family possessions.

Until Easter, the exhibition will be open at the same time as the adjoining museum, but looking ahead to the summer tourist season, the group hopes to extend the opening hours.

"Whether or not we will be able to open for longer hours to cater for the many visitors who come to the town will depend on what voluntary labour is available," the group's chairman, Cyril Barnes, told the Huntly Express yesterday.

"Anyone who would be prepared to steward the exhibition for an hour or so each week should get in touch with me," said Mr Barnes.

And he emphasised that anyone who is interested but feels unqualified for such a task would be given training.

Although the group is very excited about the prospect of launching their first exhibition, their long term aim is the provision of a resource and research centre where people can come to learn about Huntly and the things which have happened and developed here.

"Long-term premises have been identified and a preliminary going over suggests they are basically sound, but a substantial sum of money

PAT SCOTT REPORTING

will need to be raised to buy and convert them for our purposes," Cyril revealed.

It is anticipated that a Huntly Heritage centre would provide a significant boost to tourism in the town, as well as providing a stimulating source of reference for locals.

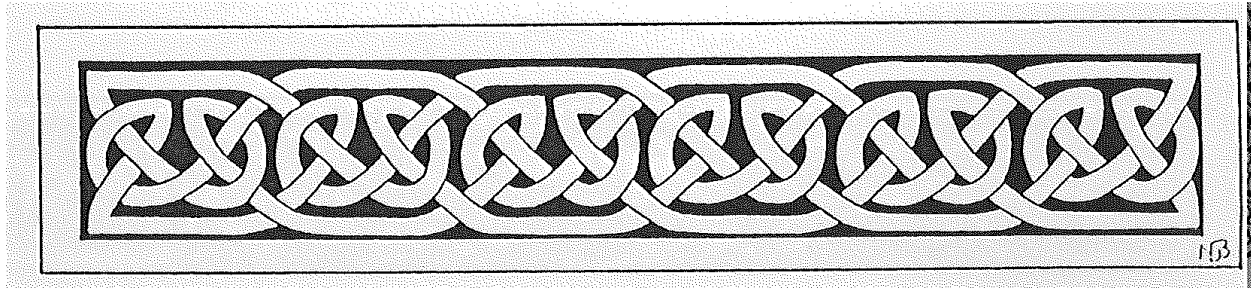
Anyone interested in the heritage project should contact Mrs Celia Collins on Gartly 229, or Mr Cyril Barnes on Rothiemay 370.

C O R A G E



G O D
M E N D • A L

For recent information please read the Huntly Heritage Newsletter



GEORGE MacDONALD ORIGINALS FROM JOHANNESSEN PRINTING AND PUBLISHING U.S.A.

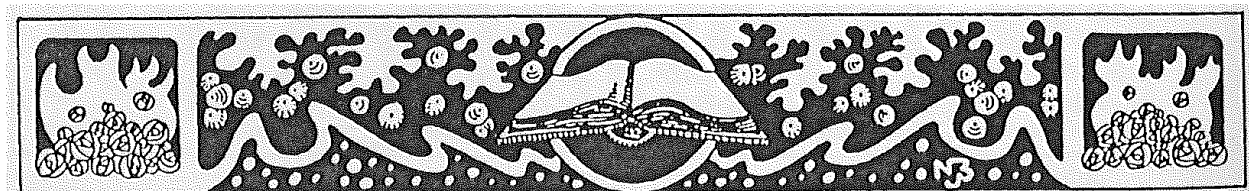
It was reading his first MacDonald book, *What Mine's Mine* in an edited version, that inspired Andy Johannesen with the vision to print more of the same, except in the original format. Many other readers will understand how that first edited version began a quest in search of George's originals, to discover what he had missed the author saying in his own words. After the next original text, *Sir Gibbie*, Andy was hooked on the writings of MacDonald and decided to read only George's originals.

In an endeavour to present the original texts of George MacDonald as he wrote them a century ago, and so that others can share the insight and truths within these books, the Johannesen printing press was set up. Johannesen Printing & Publishing explain that the logo "typed on the back end sheets, describes our feelings for George MacDonald's words . . . Treasures Old and New". These cloth copies are simple, attractive and by far the cheapest editions of the original Scottish novels.

As Joseph Flynn remarked in *Orts* 19 " . . . in addition to being a literary society celebrating the life and work of George MacDonald, the George MacDonald Society should spearhead the effort to get MacDonald's books back into print". Strong support of such MacDonald publishing ventures is the only way to ensure the continued publication of rare MacDonald originals.

Copies are available at £10 each from John Docherty, 9 Medway Drive, Forest Row, East Sussex RH18 5NU. (Please be patient with the transatlantic postal service.)

For any questions and listing of future editions **Phone or Fax: 707-986-7465** or write to **Johannesen (Printing and Publishing) – PO Box 24 Whitehorn, California 95489, U.S.A.**



1991-92 Availability

1. What's Mine's Mine? (Nov)
2. Sir Gibbie (Dec)
3. Donal Grant (Jan)
4. A Rough Shaking (Feb)
5. There and Back (Mar)
6. Castle Warlock (Apr)

ATTENTION ALL SOCIETIES!

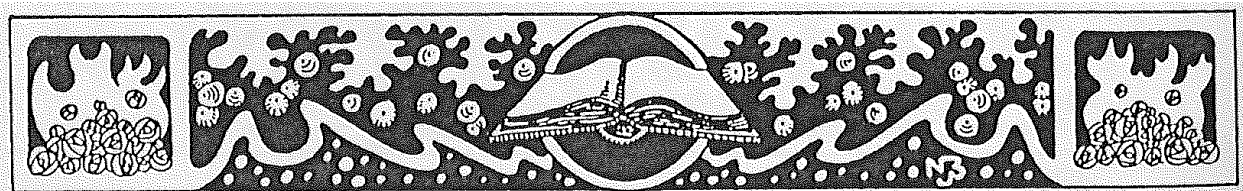
Please would all societies now direct the newsletter and other information that they send to me: Nicholas Bolton at The Rectory, Parsonage Lane, Winford, Avon BS18 8DG.

BOOKS FOR SALE

Kathy Triggs has the following for sale, all in satisfactory to good condition, post free in UK. Overseas orders in sterling please, adding £2 per book towards postage and packing. Contact: Kathy Triggs, 22 Sherwood Close, Bingley, West Yorkshire, BD16 3EL.

- * *Sir Gibbie* with intro by Greville MacDonald. Dent, 1924. £10.
- * *At the Back of the North Wind* with 75 illustrations by Arthur Hughes. Blackie, (?) 1895. £39.
- * *Thomas Wingfold Curate* Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co., 1906. £17.
- * *The Marquis of Lossie* Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co., 1909. £15.

Please send to me details of any book requests, offers or items for sale concerning George MacDonald.



THE LIBRARY, KING'S COLLEGE, STRAND, LONDON WC2R 2LS

New Acquisitions:

- * Michael Philips, *George MacDonald – Scotland's Beloved Storyteller*. Bethany House, 1987. 400 pages, hardback. Donated by the author via Freda Levson.
- * Italian translation of *The Giant's Heart* by Giorgio Spina, donated by the author.

- * A first edition of *Gutta-Percha Willie* donated by the children's writer, Angela Bull.

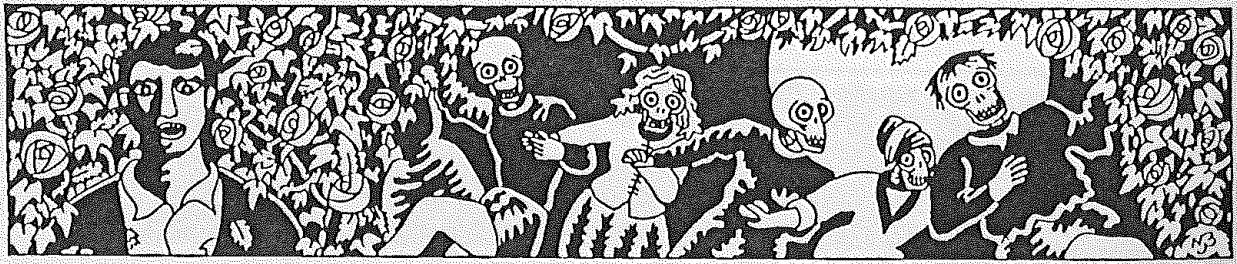
Two University theses both donated by the authors:

- * *An Exploration of the Journeys in Phantastes and Lilith* by Nicholas Bolton, 1991. 44 pages.
- * *Das Kind Als Christuskind – Das Religiös System George MacDonald's Aufzeigt Anhand Seine Werke Für Kinder* by Brigitte Löhr, 1980. 153 pages.

N.B. It is helpful to Dr Knock, the Senior Assistant Librarian at King's College, if members can give her prior *written* notice of their intention to use the collection.

NORTH WIND 11

In issue 10 the closing date for copy is stated as July 31st 1992. However, contributors are requested to send material for North Wind 11 early as the editor, Bill Raeper, expects to have a busy summer schedule. Contributions should be sent to John Docherty at 9 Medway Drive, Forest Row, East Sussex RH18 5NU.



SUBSCRIPTIONS

The membership secretary, Rachel Johnson, thanks all those who have responded so promptly to the subscription reminder and would encourage those who may have overlooked it during the Christmas period, to forward their form and subscription to her. Also she would remind members to note her change of address to **61 Longdales Road, Lincoln, LN2 2JS, UK** as one or two queries were sent to her old address.

FUTURE MATERIAL FOR ORTS

Having recently been pleased to assume responsibility for editing *Orts*, I hope that I can continue to provide an informative and interesting newsletter as did Kathy Triggs before me.

I would welcome any new ideas or suggestions for improvement from other members and will be pleased to receive any material that you consider would be of interest to other society members and readers of *Orts*. Please note the new address.

Deadline for May issue: April 15th

MEMBERSHIP LEAFLETS

Please find enclosed the new membership leaflets as mentioned in *Orts* 24. The Society apologises for their delayed arrival.

ORTS editor: Nick Bolton, The Rectory, Parsonage Lane, Winford, Avon BS18 8DG.



Smoke

*Lord, I have laid my heart upon thy altar
But cannot get the wood to burn;
It hardly flares ere it begins to falter
And to the dark return.*

*Old sap, or night-fallen dew, makes damp the fuel;
In vain my breath would flame provoke;
Yet see—at every poor attempt's renewal
To thee ascends the smoke!*

*'Tis all I have—smoke, failure, foiled endeavour,
Coldness and doubt and palsied lack:
Such as I have I send thee!—perfect Giver,
Send thou thy lightning back.*

GMD

